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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/807,372	03/24/2004	Adrian Steiner	PA-222	3962

21920 7590 08/18/2006

MEREK, BLACKMON & VOORHEES, LLC
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EXAMINER

KASENGE, CHARLES R

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2125

DATE MAILED: 08/18/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/807,372	Applicant(s) STEINER ET AL.	
	Examiner Charles R. Kasenge	Art Unit 2125	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 June 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7, 10-18 and 21-28 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7, 10-18 and 21-28 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 24 March 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s), (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>6/19/06</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments, see Remarks, filed 6/19/06, with respect to the rejection(s) of the claim(s) have been fully considered and are persuasive. Therefore, the rejection has been withdrawn. However, upon further consideration, a new ground(s) of rejection is made in view of Maus et al. U.S. Patent 6,668,943.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

3. Claims 2-7, 11-18, 21, 27 and 28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

4. Claims 2-7 and 11-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite in that it fails to point out what is included or excluded by the claim language. This claim is an omnibus type claim. In line 1 of each claim, "The device" should be "The apparatus".

5. Claim 21 recites the limitation "said flow measurement device" in the last line of the claim. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

6. Claim 27 recites the limitations "the discharge" in line 2. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

7. Claim 28 recites the limitation "said controller" in line 3. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

8. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

9. Claims 1-4, 7, 10-16 and 21-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Maus et al. U.S. Patent 6,668,943. Regarding claims 1, 10, 13, 21, 25, 27 and 28, Maus discloses an apparatus to control the rate of flow of a stream of pressurized fluid through a conduit (col. 4, lines 30-40 and col. 1, lines 32-35), the apparatus comprising: (i) a flow measurement device for generating an output signal proportionate to the rate of flow of said fluid there through, said flow measurement device being operatively connected to said conduit (col. 12, lines 21-46); (ii) a flow control device operatively connected to said conduit, said flow control device including an adjustable orifice wherein upon the opening of said orifice a portion of said stream of pressurized fluid is independently released from said conduit by said flow control device (col. 13, lines 24-49); and, (iii) a controller operatively connected to said flow control device and receiving said output signal generated by said flow measurement device, said controller causing said adjustable orifice in said flow control device to open or close as necessary to maintain the flow of pressurized fluid as measured by said flow measurement device within pre-determined limits (col. 11, lines 8-36 and 43-53). Maus discloses the use of pumps in the system and allows for the discharge of fluid from said conduit to be at a rate below the output

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rate of the pump (col. 6, lines 1-12).

Regarding claims 2-4, 15, 16, 22 and 23, Maus discloses the device as claimed in claim 1 wherein said flow control device includes an automatically adjustable choke or valve (col. 13, lines 24-49). Maus discloses the device as claimed in claim 1 wherein said flow measurement device includes a turbine in communication with said stream of pressurized fluid (col. 3, lines 61-67). Maus discloses the device as claimed in claim 1 wherein said flow measurement device includes a pressure sensor and said output signal comprises a pressure signal (col. 3, lines 50-56).

Regarding claims 7 and 26, Maus discloses the device as claimed in claim 1 wherein said controller is a microprocessor control, said microprocessor control being programmable to automatically adjust said orifice in said flow control device in accordance with fluctuations in said output signal received from said flow measurement device to maintain the flow of fluid as measured by said flow measurement device within a pre-determined range (col. 11, lines 8-36).

Regarding claims 11 and 12, Maus discloses the device as claimed in claim 10 including a visual indicator responsive to said output signal generated by said flow measurement device (col. 14, lines 32-40). Maus discloses the device as claimed in claim 11 wherein said visual indicator comprises a gauge indicating the volumetric flow of fluid as measured by said flow measurement device (col. 14, lines 32-40).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

10. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person

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having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

11. Claims 5, 6, 17 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Maus et al. as applied to the claims above, and further in view of Harpster U.S. Patent 4,942,763. Maus discloses flow measurement devices but does not disclose the measurement device including a pitot tube or pilot pressure tube. Harpster discloses the device as claimed in claim 1 wherein said flow measurement device includes a pitot tube (col. 14, lines 31-34) or a pilot pressure tube (col. 10, lines 19-23).

At the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art for Maus' flow measurement devices to included a pitot or pilot pressure tube. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to do this since Harpster discloses them as standard components for a flow sensor (col. 10, lines 19-23 and col. 14, lines 31-34).

Conclusion

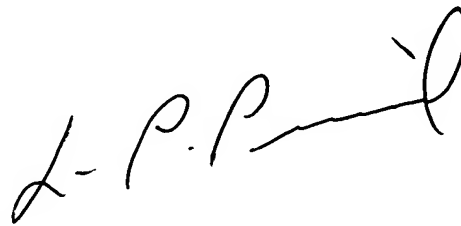
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Charles R. Kasenge whose telephone number is 571 272-3743. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday, 8:30 - 5 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Leo Picard can be reached on 571 272-3749. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

CK
August 11, 2006

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "L. P. Picard", with a stylized flourish at the end.

LEO PICARD
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100